

Candace Barrington
291 Townsend Avenue
New Haven, CT 06512

**RE: Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee's public hearing on S.B. No. 1011
-- An Act Concerning a Reorganization of Connecticut's System of Public Higher Education.**

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and members of the Committee. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today. I am Candace Barrington, a professor of English at Central Connecticut State University and the president of Central's Faculty Senate.

Based on the questions Senator Bye put forth at the beginning of this hearing, I am going to veer away from my prepared statement and address her questions of governance and decision making.

No one, no one, has a greater, long-term interest in the health and vitality of the individual campuses than do the faculty, yet Bill 1011 makes no provision to seek faculty input on either the reorganization or the governance of higher education in Connecticut.

For CSU, this would be a loss. In the last decade, CSU faculty and members of the BOT have worked to establish more and better direct contact with one another. Every academic year, the BOT and the Academic Affairs subcommittee hold meetings on each of the four campuses, and there are regular meetings between the trustees and faculty leadership.

We do not want this conversation to disappear. In fact, we would like to find ways to make these conversations more frequent and more substantial. When you have administrators as the only interface between campuses and the board, you have not checks or hedges. And misrepresentations—such as those you've seen today where personnel are discussed in terms of numbers rather than dollars—can continue unhindered.

With this in mind, I suggest that any reorganization legislation institutionalize a Faculty Committee—and I've purposely left out "Advisory"—charged with substantial responsibilities and confident its voice will be heard and heeded. For instance, this committee could help identify and define the accountability measures that section 10 of the bill delegates to the Higher Education Coordinating Council.

I have been heartened by the fact you have already extensively sought out and listened to the faculty. I'd like to see this practice continue as we move through and into any reorganization of Connecticut public higher education.